



Union-Tribune

\$2.77 PLUS TAX

SUNDAY

SPORTS



JUSTIFY WINS KENTUCKY DERBY

The betting favorite Justify, ridden by Mike Smith, easily wins the Kentucky Derby on Saturday.

GOP HOPING GAS TAX FIGHT HELPS LIFT VOTER TURNOUT

Party leaders also want sanctuary city controversy to drive base to ballot box

BY JOSHUA STEWART

Running a tough race in a district where Democrats outnumber Republican voters nearly 2 to 1, Republican House candidate Morgan Murtaugh has an ice-breaker that she found connects with people of all political stripes.

"It's a great conversation starter and it's easy," Murtaugh said.

She's referring to the ballot initiative to repeal California's recent 12-cent hike in gasoline tax and increase in vehicle registration fees.

Republicans say their polls show the tax and fee hike are unpopular across party lines and that voters, especially conservative ones, will turn

SEE GOP • A6

TRUMP'S EFFECT ON JUNE S.D. ELECTION UNCERTAIN

Poll shows economy, not president, at top of regional voters' minds

BY JOSHUA EMERSON SMITH

The border wall, Obamacare, gun control. President Donald Trump has ignited controversy and driven media coverage on one political topic after the next.

However, for San Diegans planning to vote in the June 5 primary, one issue may rise above the rest.

It's the economy, folks.

Likely voters in the region, according to a recent SurveyUSA poll, ranked the economy well ahead of a slew of other prominent issues — such as immigration, tax policy or even how well the president is performing.

That might be troubling news for Democrats trying to win swing districts by framing the election as

SEE ELECTION • A17



JOHN GIBBINS U-T

The last group of Central American members of the Pueblo Sin Fronteras caravan cross into the U.S. on Friday. At least three-quarters of applicants from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala were denied entry from 2012 to 2017, according to one research project.

ODDS OF CENTRAL AMERICANS WINNING ASYLUM CASES SLIM

Trend could be shifting as case law helps shape supportive precedent

BY KATE MORRISSEY

As Central Americans from a migrant caravan made famous by President Donald Trump's angry tweets begin entering the asylum process from the U.S. border, they face a complex legal battle that most who have tried in recent years from their countries have lost.

Just under 80 percent of the 15,667 asylum cases from El Salvador were denied between fiscal 2012 and fiscal 2017, according to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, a project with Syracuse University that monitors immigration data through public records requests.

Those trends could change as case law established in the last couple of years has helped more Central Americans show how their stories line up with requirements for asylum.

"There's a steeper hill to climb, I



K.C. ALFRED U-T

Central American migrants and their supporters rally on both sides of the border locally last Sunday.

think, in the Central American cases," said Dana Leigh Marks, a spokeswoman with the National Association of Immigration Judges.

"They involve cutting-edge legal arguments. The case law is still evolving. Whether it's a liberal or a conservative trend, the reality is law is based on case precedent. The more precedent that builds and makes that principle clearer, the more established it's

going to be and the more consistent it's going to be."

Under asylum law, people seeking protection must show that they have been persecuted or have a well-founded fear that they will be persecuted because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a social group.

Being afraid of general violence or rampant crime is not

enough to win a case.

Some Central Americans have more traditional cases under the race or political opinion categories, but most are fleeing gang violence or domestic violence. Such cases tend to require asylum-seekers to show that the bad things that happened to them were because they are part of a particular social group.

More are winning their cases than before, according to Ginger Jacobs, an immigration attorney in San Diego, especially in the last two years.

Women who could show that they're being targeted because they are women have a better chance of winning their cases, Jacobs explained. This could include women who were gang-raped or victims of domestic violence.

People who can show they fear persecution because their family has been targeted also have a better chance of winning. Members of the LGBTQ community also have an easier time showing that they're members of a targeted social group.

Judges are more aware, Jacobs said, of how gang violence is intertwined with governments in the Northern Triangle — Guatemala,

SEE ASYLUM • A17

IN DEPTH

Historic health research project begins today



HOWARD LIPIN U-T FILE

Volunteers in the "All of Us" research program will be asked to give blood and urine samples to identify how environmental threats activate genes that cause disease.

A million people across U.S. asked to share life details with scientists

BY GARY ROBBINS

Would you share intimate details about your health in the hope that it would someday help scientists find better ways to fight such afflictions as cancer, dementia and heart disease?

Your health care provider may soon ask you that question as part of one of the largest efforts in American history to decipher how people's genes, lifestyle and environment affect their well-being.

In a move that relies heavily on altruism, the National Institutes of Health today will begin trying to persuade 1 million people across the country to give scientists access to everything from their electronic health records to the details of their genetic make-up. The NIH is also asking people to trust that it will protect their data at a time when there have been major privacy breaches everywhere from

SEE STUDY • A16

TRAVEL



A WALK ACROSS ENGLAND

A patchwork route provides a beautiful but grueling coast-to-coast trek across the English terrain. E9

U-T INDEX

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Table with 2 columns: Category and Page Number. In Local: Editorials, Obituaries; In U-T Offers: Crossword, Dear Abby.



SPROUTS FARMERS MARKET COMING SOON WEDNESDAY, MAY 9 Mira Mesa • Mira Mesa Blvd. & Reagan Rd.



# LOCAL SUN DAY



**MICHAEL SMOLENS**  
Columnist

## Trump White House invades border region

Vice President Mike Pence's trip to the border region, the latest in a string by the president and his people, was big on symbolism and some fact-challenged perspectives.

Pence went to Calexico on Monday primarily to promote President Donald Trump's proposed extended border wall. He mentioned the administration's belief that the project will help deter illegal border crossers, but framed it as a symbol as much as anything.

"We've got to build a wall," he said. "A wall sends a clear message that we are a nation of borders."

It seems the world has gotten that message, certainly via Trump's megaphone. Border crossings are still way down, despite a recent uptick.

Pence gave much of the credit for that to Border Patrol agents and promised them massive reinforcements that Trump has proposed.

"I'm pleased to report that illegal crossings at our southern border have fallen by more than 40 percent in the past 12 months," he told a gathering of agents in Calexico. "Job well done, men and women."

However, those figures he gave tend to undermine the argument for the \$25 billion wall, or whatever its price tag is these days.

The timing of Pence's visit created a juxtaposition with the caravan of Central American asylum-seekers arriving to the west in Tijuana just a few days earlier. He referred to the caravan as he spoke about the wall, though, in reality, the two don't have much to do with each other.

From hundreds of miles away, the people in the caravan very publicly announced their intention to travel to the U.S. border and apply for asylum through the lengthy legal process. That's not exactly a good strategy if you're trying to sneak across the border. Besides, they arrived in a place where there is already a fortified border barrier.

Still, Pence sought to make a connection. "But let's be clear," he said in Calexico, "as we think about the hardship of those families gathered at our border in the so-called caravan, this wall is not only necessary to support you men and women who are on

SEE **SMOLENS • B4**

## COMPANIES FIGHT PROPOSED FEE HIKES

Event organizers face sharp increases in costs

BY DAVID GARRICK

### SAN DIEGO

Organizers of nonprofit events like San Diego Pride, Earth Day and neighborhood street fairs say proposed city fee increases for security and other services would damage their finances and jeopardize the future of some events.

Nonprofit events get charged less for such services than events staged by commercial organizations, but San Diego officials want to slowly shrink those subsidies to help balance the city budget.

Starting in July 2019, events staged by nonprofits face a 27 percent increase in city fees, and another spike in July 2020 that would bring the increase to 36 percent.

The proposed spike would cost a large event like Pride, which requires significant security and many street closures for its parade, somewhere between \$10,000 and \$15,000 per year.

Event organizers are asking city officials to reconsider imposing the increases and potentially create a tiered system, under which large nonprofit events like Comic-Con and Pride would pay more than smaller events generating less revenue.

Councilman Chris Ward of Uni-

versity Heights wants city officials to consider contributing some hotel tax money to cover fees for events that attract tourism, similar to how the city subsidizes events such as the Holiday Bowl.

Ward also wants to create an appeals process that would allow nonprofits to challenge the fees charged by the city when they think the estimates of security needs have been overblown.

Nonprofits sometimes complain that while city officials meet with them to discuss their events each year, there is no opportunity to request revisions once the city decides what fees it will charge them.

Event organizers say the city's

quest for more revenue might end up killing some events.

"It's getting beyond what we can afford," Carolyn Chase, organizer of the 30-year old Earth Day event held each April in Balboa Park, said by phone. "You have to look at what's fair and reasonable in any situation. If their goal is making more money off of special events, I don't know that the money is there for them to make."

Fernando Lopez, organizer of Pride, said by phone that city officials might be making shortsighted decisions they will regret.

"These seemingly small impacts to the nonprofits have the ability to damage what makes San

SEE **EVENTS • B9**

## "I'm disappointed, but I'm not giving up."

Anne Fege • chair of the Community Forest Advisory Board



K.C. ALFRED U-T

Trees fill an area of Balboa Park where visitors stroll. San Diego's 2015 Climate Action Plan calls for the coverage of the urban tree canopy from roughly 13 percent in 2014 to 15 percent by 2020 and 35 percent by 2035, but the plantings are falling short.

## TREES BUDGET MAY BE TRIMMED

Faulconer proposing reduction as climate-plan pledge for plantings fails to bloom

BY JOSHUA EMERSON SMITH

Planting tens of thousands of new trees throughout San Diego is supposed to significantly help shrink the city's carbon footprint under its 2015 Climate Action Plan.

Officials are relying on boosting the urban tree canopy to eliminate more greenhouse gases in coming years than from rolling out electric city vehicles, capturing methane from wastewater treatment and increasing the number of people who bike to work, all combined.

However, Mayor Kevin

Faulconer is proposing to cut funding from the Urban Forestry Program in this year's budget, while the effort to boost tree cover throughout the city appears to be dauntingly behind schedule.

The mayor pledged under the climate plan to grow the coverage of the urban tree canopy from roughly 13 percent in 2014 to 15 percent by 2020 and 35 percent by 2035.

With a stated baseline of roughly a million trees, the city would need to add more than 150,000 new trees to meet its short-term target and about another 1.5

million to satisfy its ultimate goal.

Officials said the city will have planted about 2,000 shade-producing trees by June to help satisfy its ambitious climate pledge.

Faulconer's office said the mayor believes the city will hit the 2020 target, offering this statement in an email:

"Planting more trees makes our neighborhoods greener and our air cleaner, and Mayor Faulconer has consistently committed funding for tree planting and maintenance in his annual budgets. His proposed budget for the coming fiscal

year is no different and will move the city a step closer to reaching the tree canopy targets outlined in the landmark Climate Action Plan."

It's still unclear how tree mortality and other factors have impacted the overall inventory. Authorities said they are about a third of the way through cataloging the number of trees in the city.

"We're barely maintaining," said Vince Mikulanic, who sits on the city's Community Forest Advisory Board and is a member of the San Diego Regional Urban Forests

SEE **TREES • B9**

## OFFICIAL'S NEW APPROACH TO HOMELESS

Rules more strictly enforced, but help, humanity offered too

BY J. HARRY JONES

### ESCONDIDO

Over the past two months, Grape Day Park in the center of Escondido has become a family-friendly place again.

The homeless population, which for years filled the city's most visible park all day, has been drastically reduced. Where once there were dozens, now there are just a handful.

It's not an accident. The city has taken an aggressive approach not just with the homeless in Grape Day Park, but throughout the city — and is being praised by homeless advocates in the process.

"The city is proactively working to help our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness in a way I've never seen before, in positive ways," said Greg Anglea, the chief executive officer of Interfaith Community Services, which saw more than 10,000 people in need come to their offices last year.

"I've seen an increased commitment to putting resources toward addressing homelessness in the past year. Bill Wolfe's role has been



HAYNE PALMOUR IV U-T

Jimmy Henderson (left) and Reagan Peter, both homeless, sit on a bench at Escondido's Grape Day Park.

a big part of that."

Wolfe, a longtime criminal defense lawyer who became a deputy city manager last September, has the option of parking his car in the executive parking lot near City Hall. Instead, he parks his car each morning in a parking lot kitty-corner to the municipal facility and walks through Grape Day Park, every morning and every night.

He talks to anybody he runs across — the homeless, children at

the playground, dog-walkers, rangers.

"When I started work in September, you could walk out there and there were 36 to 40 (homeless people) hanging out in the park," Wolfe said. "There would be 15 in the horseshoe pit alone."

Now that number is down to usually just a handful and residents who were once afraid, or uncomfortable coming to Grape Day

SEE **HOMELESS • B9**

## INCUMBENT CHALLENGED FOR COUNTY ASSESSOR

Seat nonpartisan, but Democrats, Republicans have both contributed

BY JEFF McDONALD

The office may be nondescript, anonymous even, but the assessor-recorder-county clerk is a powerful post with responsibilities and influence that affect virtually every resident and patch of ground in the region.

The combined duties, performed in San Diego County by Ernest J. Dronenburg Jr. since he was elected in 2010, include everything from issuing marriage licenses and birth and death records to recording real estate transactions and assessing property for tax purposes.

Dronenburg, 74, a Republican from Fallbrook, is facing attorney Matthew Strabone, 35, a Democrat from New York City who now lives in North Park.

The office is supposed to be nonpartisan, but each of the local Republican and Democratic party committees has

contributed thousands of dollars to their respective candidates. And more donations are expected before the first votes are cast.

Dronenburg, who was born in Washington, D.C., and migrated to San Diego County as a toddler, previously served 20 years on the state Board of Equalization. He said the assessor-recorder-county clerk post is among the most rewarding he has undertaken.

"I like this job," Dronenburg said in an interview at his county office. "We're all about great customer service. That's what we do."

Over his two terms, Dronenburg said he has turned around the office to make it more efficient and more responsive to the public. He incorporated new technologies into an aging business model and focused on reaching out to formerly overlooked parts of the community, he said.

"When I came in, this place was a real mess," Dronenburg said. "Leadership was in real chaos."

Strabone, who runs his own law firm specializing in non-

SEE **ASSESSOR • B9**



## MEDIATE THIS !

## THE FEROCIOUS DOG AND HIS BELLIGERENT OWNER

BY STEVEN P. DINKIN

**Dear Mediator:**

My neighbor recently took in his ne'er-do-well brother and his brother's Rottweiler. While I was walking my terrier, the Rottweiler jumped their fence and attacked my dog. I had a walking stick, so I stopped the big dog by whacking him. The vet bills were \$2,600 for my dog and \$1,400 for the attacker dog. The brother refuses to pay my vet bills, but he expects me to pay his dog's vet bills and accuses me of animal abuse.

*Carrying a Big Stick  
in Encanto*

**Dear Carrying:**

Mediation always begins with the hope that adversaries will cool off enough to work out a reasonable compromise. In cases like yours, that hope fades quickly. A person who takes no responsibility for his dog's unprovoked attack *and* who faults you for defending your dog's life is not likely to negotiate in good faith.

Psychologists describe such people as "high-conflict personalities." They live in a state of perpetual warfare, and they always pin the blame on others.

The best coping strategy is as counterintuitive as "steering into the skid" when your car fishtails in

the rain. Don't panic, and don't overcorrect. By easing up, you can maintain control and head in the direction where you need to go.

You and your pet have survived an assault, so the worst is behind you. Because the owner refuses to be accountable for his Rottweiler, that dog still poses a risk and could be declared a "public nuisance animal." If you haven't already, you should lodge a complaint about the attack (date, time, location, extent of injuries) with County Animal Services.

To collect damages for your vet bill, you could file a case in Small Claims Court. Expect the Rottweiler's owner to file a counter claim, which is standard high-conflict practice.

This would set the stage for a lengthy battle. Meanwhile, you are co-existing with a neighbor at close proximity in a state of extreme tension. If you can resolve the tension and restore peace, everyone will benefit.

Ideally, we want to avoid high-conflict individuals at all costs. But if we must regularly interact with such a person — as a relative, a colleague, or a neighbor — we can manage and contain the resulting drama.

Bill Eddy, co-founder of the San Diego-based High Conflict Institute, has written several



JAMIE MCCARTHY GETTY IMAGES

**This Rottweiler seems docile, but not the one, or its owner, described in this week's Mediate This!**

books exploring these potentially antisocial personalities. His most recent, "5 Types of People Who Can Ruin Your Life," outlines his trademarked and highly effective CARS method:

**Connect** with the person by using empathy and respect to calm him down and halt the downward cycle of blame/counter-blame. You both love your dogs and are equally distressed by this

awful incident. You need to help each other move past the shared trauma.

**Analyze** your realistic options. Compile a list of possible outcomes that might include splitting both vet bills equally. That option may seem galling, but in a negotiation, you are wise to at least consider alternative resolutions that you might not ultimately accept.

**Respond** quickly to misinformation. The facts of this case, which you have documented, are indisputable. Stick to those facts, and don't be diverted by false accusations.

**Set** limits on misbehavior. You will be sensible and courteous, but you will not countenance abusive conduct or threats. If laws and rules are not followed, consequences will ensue.

In setting limits, Bill advises clients to seek allies. High-conflict people always spread their misery around. This man and his Rottweiler are undoubtedly causing distress to other people, including (and perhaps especially) to his brother, your original neighbor.

Don't ask the brother to take your side. But try to find a way to signal quietly that you value him as a neighbor and you hope there is a way for the two of you to reconnect.

Steven P. Dinkin is a professional mediator who has served as President of the San-Diego based National Conflict Resolution Center since 2003.

**Do you have a conflict that needs a resolution?** Share your story with The Mediator via email at [mediatethis@ncrconline.com](mailto:mediatethis@ncrconline.com) or as an online submission by visiting [www.ncrconline.com/MediateThis](http://www.ncrconline.com/MediateThis). All submissions will be kept anonymous.

## NOTEBOOKS

From Union-Tribune reporting staff

## OUTDOORS: ERNIE COWAN

## Annual call goes out to count bighorn sheep in Anza-Borrego Desert park

For those who have never participated in the citizen science project of counting bighorn sheep in the peak of summer heat, it might seem a bit daft. For those who have done it, it's more a ritual of dedication.

Every year for the past 48, volunteers have gathered in the basking summer heat of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park to be a part of this important wildlife monitoring effort.

This year is no different and park officials have put out the call for anyone who might be interested in joining the fun.

Sheep count coordinator Mike Puzzo said this year's census is scheduled for June 28 through July 1. Last year, 74 volunteers endured temperatures of up to 109 degrees, but provided wildlife managers with important information about the numbers, health and habitat conditions in the narrow desert region where these protected animals are found.

After being trained, volunteers spread out to various desert locations where sheep are likely to be attracted to the slim supply of available water. During the three days spent in the field, counters keep close track of sheep herds, look for anything that might signal concern about the health of the animals and record sheep numbers.

Volunteers will participate in an extensive training period at the Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center on June 16. Puzzo said the orientation will cover bighorn natural history, California Fish and Wildlife's recovery efforts, census methods, desert safety and site assignments.

Sites monitored during the census range from locations requiring a short hike, to more remote desert springs where volunteers will hike in and stay for the duration of the count.

Puzzo said sheep numbers in the park are estimated at about 500, and totals for the entire Peninsular Ranges are almost 900 sheep.

Anyone wanting more information or who would like volunteer can email [AB.Sheepcount@parks.ca.gov](mailto:AB.Sheepcount@parks.ca.gov).

**Coast to Crest**

Four area hikers have completed a 26.3-mile Coast to Crest hiking challenge in a single day.

Kelly Mamer of Rancho Peñasquitos; Rich and Sandra Grow of Santee, and Dan

Conger of Escondido said they like to try "stupid stuff," so they hopped into a car in Del Mar and headed to Volcan Mountain in Julian to begin a 13-hour adventure ending in Del Mar.

The Coast to Crest Challenge was created by the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy. From July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, the conservancy is partnering with REI, Adventure 16 and Hike San Diego to challenge hikers to get to know the Coast to Crest Trail. Most hikers who complete the route take several days to do it.

"When I first thought of the idea, I didn't know it was possible to do it in a day. Being a planner, I came up with a day-length in spring, subtracted drive time and worked on a pace. Our pace was generally faster but the short rests while getting back in the car added up," Conger said.

The free Coast to Crest Trail Challenge consists of five hikes throughout the river park. Each hike has a designated "selfie spot" for challengers to document their progress. Once they complete all five hikes, they email all their selfies to [sdrvc@sdrvc.org](mailto:sdrvc@sdrvc.org) for verification.

The five legs include the San Dieguito Lagoon, Del Dios Gorge, Bernardo Mountain, Clevenger Canyon South and Volcan Mountain.

Everyone who successfully completes the challenge receives a conservancy certificate and decal, 20 percent off coupon from REI, \$10 in Adventure Bucks from Adventure 16 and a cool patch from Hike San Diego, plus bragging rights for accomplishing five cool outdoor adventures!

SDRVC Executive Director Trish Boaz said more than 175 hikers and bikers have taken the challenge. Participation is free. For more information, visit [sdrvc.org/coast-to-crest-trail-challenge](http://sdrvc.org/coast-to-crest-trail-challenge).

**Wren update**

The tiny wren nesting in our televised nestbox at our home north of Escondido continues to spend more time on her seven eggs and the hatch nears.

To get daily reports and see photos of the nesting, visit our Mt. Whoville Wren Nest Facebook page.

Email [ernie@packtrain.com](mailto:ernie@packtrain.com)

## THE READERS' REPRESENTATIVE: ADRIAN VORE

## Minding about stories regarding polls

"Poll: County upbeat about legalized pot," declared the main front-page headline April 24. The subhead read: "Nearly half believe it has been good for California society; 57% tout economic benefits."

The headlines and story were misleading, a reader emailed. The numbers highlighted in the story put an overly positive spin on public opinion, he said.

The reader made a solid point that a story's tone about survey findings must reflect the actual numbers. But I think this story did present a fair account, as it gave all the poll's answers.

For example, the poll found that 49 percent of the respondents think legalized marijuana is good for California. The story and an accompanying graphic said 22 percent think it made no difference, and 20 percent said it was bad for the state. Nine percent said they weren't sure. I believe the 49 percent is a valid number to highlight.

Several questions in the poll contained multiple answers, so the opinions did not fit only two categories, such as good or bad.

The Associated Press Stylebook for newswriting has guidelines for journalists to follow when writing stories about polls' findings. One is "stories based on public opinion polls ... must be carefully worded to avoid exaggerating the meaning of the poll results."

I think the marijuana poll story did that. Other guidelines the AP calls for and readers should look for in poll stories:

- Who conducted the poll and who paid for it "so that readers can be aware of the potential of bias from sponsorship." (The story noted SurveyUSA did the poll, and the U-T and 10News commissioned it.)
- How many people were interviewed. (The story and accompanying graphic said 600.)

- Who was interviewed. (The graphic said adults in San Diego County.)
- How was the poll conducted. (The story or graphic did not specify.)

- When was the poll taken. (The story and graphic said April 19-20.)
- What is the sampling error margin. A scientifically conducted poll (not a call-in poll or click-on-a-box website survey) will have a percentage point sampling error of plus or minus. The graphic for the pot story said the poll was plus or minus 5.3 to 9.7 percentage points. In this case, it means that survey results could swing 5.3 to 9.7 percent-

age points fewer or greater in the actual population of adults in the county. So that 57 percent good vote for pot's effect on the state's economy might actually be about 52 percent or about 67 percent.

The next time you read a story about survey results, look for this information.

**Reader infers more from typo**

Although the amount of feedback denouncing the mainstream media for their White House political coverage has diminished, the Readers' Rep still receives an email now and then pointing out perceived bias.

An email from a reader about a story that ran on A2 Monday illustrates how sensitive the media environment remains. The article was about Dr. Ronny Jackson, whom President Donald Trump unsuccessfully nominated to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs. The story reported that he would not return as the president's personal physician.

The article was compiled from more than one news source. It included background on allegations of improper behavior and questionable professional conduct by Jackson.

A sentence contained an unfortunate typo (indicated here by uppercase letters): "Jackson has denied the allegations against him, which have proved difficult to verify or disprove. ... A Secret Service statement on Friday said the agency had found TO evidence to support one of the specific allegations."

The word "to" should have read "no." The reader's email was titled "Liberal Jabberwocky."

"Actually, the agency had found no such evidence," the reader wrote, "but the reporter just couldn't make himself/herself say it. Fake news?"

The reader used "typo" to describe the error but implied that it was done purposefully.

It was an innocent mistake that probably happened when an editor was piecing together multiple stories to compile the report. But this reader didn't see it that way.

The typo and the feedback represent an important lesson to editors and reporters: In the battle over credibility and the prevalent use of the term "fake news," hyper-vigilance is needed in every word and sentence.

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES | LOOKING BACK OVER 150 YEARS

## 13 DROWN AT OCEAN BEACH

The San Diego Union-Tribune will mark its 150th anniversary in 2018 by presenting a significant front page from the archives each day throughout the year.

## Monday, May 6, 1918

At least 13 men, including 11 servicemen, drowned in a single day in heavy rip currents off Ocean Beach. More than 60 people were rescued by lifeguards.

Here are the first few paragraphs of the story:

**2 DROWN, 11 MISSING, 60 ARE SAVED AT OCEAN BEACH****TERRIFIC TIDE-RIP TRAPS SWIMMERS WITHOUT WARNING**

CAUGHT in a terrific tide-rip which swept upon them without warning yesterday afternoon at Ocean Beach, scores of bathers fought for their lives, sixty were rescued by life guards and other bathers, two of them were drowned and their bodies recovered, and at least eleven others are missing. A crowd of over 5000 holiday makers looked on from the beach as bathers and rescuers struggled in the surf, powerless except to shout encouragement to those who were risking their lives for those whose strength was being sapped by the undertow.

**The dead:**

Hugh E. Burr, company B, 144th machine gun battalion, Camp Kearny.

Charles Humphrey, bakery company 323, Camp Kearny.

**The missing:**

Sergt. Herman Hauber, company B, 159th infantry, Camp Kearny.

Sergt. Emmerson Donaldson, company D, 115th ammunition train, Camp Kearny.

Corp. Eravella Taylor, company 5, 115th supply train, Camp Kearny.

Private Fred W. Sanborn, sanitary detachment, 160th infantry, Camp Kearny.

Private Ralph Brady, battery F, 145th field artillery, Camp Kearny.

Private Frank Mitchell, 204 aero squad, North Island.

Sailor H. P. Hanson, naval air station, North Island.

Sailor C. L. Pollitt, radio station, Point Loma.

I. H. Killingsworth, believed to be a sailor.

Marcus Regil, janitor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, city.

Catarino Anda, city.



missing was made by his wife, who said he was on the beach at the time of the catastrophe.

In addition to the list of the dead and missing, as gathered by the authorities, it is believed possible that several others who did not get bathing suits at the bathhouses may be lost. This is practically certain, it is declared, concerning two Mexicans who are known to have used the top of a building as a dressing room.

As the magnitude of the catastrophe became more apparent the crowd swarmed to the head of the tide-rip, the lifeguards and police patrolmen immediately became the center of a rescuing party numbering 30 or 40 bathers. As the rescued were brought to the beach, willing hands wrapped them in overcoats and shawls and men and women bent themselves to the task of resuscitation.

**RISKS LIFE IN SURF**

The pulmotor at the beach was put in use and a telephone call rushed out a lung motor from police headquarters at San Diego. As Hospital Steward Paul Plaisted pushed through the crowd just in front of the spot where the tide-rip was strongest, eight unconscious bodies lay upon the sand, and others were being carried from the surf along the danger. Disregarding those who were in no danger of death Plaisted waited for those bathers who, it was seen from the shore, were floundering in the deep water between the breakers, and for whom heroic efforts were being made by rescuers.

**DEEDS OF HEROISM RECORDED**

The clothes of these men, with the exception of Killingsworth, were found in various bathhouses of Ocean Beach after the beach had been cleared of all bathers.

During the evening the police, together with the military authorities at the resort, canvassed the houses at which it was likely rescued men had been taken, and it was only after a thorough checking of each one that the above list was compiled. Killingsworth dressed at home and the report of his being